

**William MacRea to Andrew Jackson, October 27, 1814,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM MACREA TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, October 27, 1814.

Sir, I had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th inst: by Captn. West.

At the particular solicitation of His Excellency Governor Claiborne, and believing myself the measure would be beneficial to the public service, as being the most efficient plan that could be adopted, to prevent the enemy from penetrating into the Country, without our receiving early intelligence of their designs and movements, I have ordered a company of the drafted Militia of this state, under the command of Captn. Hicks, to take a favorable position on the Lafourche, to erect a small battery, and to keep small parties of observation always out.

Another company of the drafted Militia of this state under the command of Captn. Dupas will take post on the waters of Barrataria at a place called the Temple, for the same purpose as the former. Those Companies have each been furnished with a peeice of Iron Ordnance, Ammunition and provision, with the necessary equipments. The first company started this day for the Lafourche, the other will leave this for Barrataria on the 23d.

A Troop of Cavalry consisting of about forty five men from Feleciana, has been mustered into service at the request of the Governor, by the Assistant Inspector General. Those men are quartered in the upper Fauxburgh of this City, and will be employed on such duties, as may be found adviseable for this kind of force, particularly in reconnoitering the passes towards Chef Menteur, and the settlements on the Terre au Bouf, to which place small

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parties will be occasionally detached. Those are the only troops that have been delivered over to me by the Governor on the requisition, and I hope the disposition made of them may meet your approbation. I should be glad to receive your orders on the subject of the Militia called into service, how far I am to consider myself authorized to employ them.¹

¹ The situation described by Lieutenant-Colonel MacRea was confused, for a large number of Louisiana militia were in service. Jackson acted promptly to strengthen the hands of his subordinate. On Oct. 31, 1814, he issued the following order: "Lieut. Colo. MacRea of the corps of Artillerists will assume the command of all the posts and troops within the state of Louisiana, and commandants of corps (except those selected and placed on the recruiting service by the War department and not subject to any other military command) will report to him, until further Orders. The Major General expects the most prompt compliance with this order, to the end that the Lt. Colo can bring into the field all regular as well as militia forces should the enemy attempt an invasion."

It is the will of the Governor, that the six hundred men expected from the second division of the Militia of this state, should be stationed at the Cantonment at the English Turn, until your pleasure respecting them should be made known, and I have made the necessary arrangements for this purpose. Those troops are expected to reach New Orleans by the 30th inst.

I feel great embarrassment for want of assistance in the Engineer Department; The gentleman who last acted in the capacity of Engineer for this district, Mr. Bartholomew Lafon, was discharged by General Flournoy some time before he left this City. He informs me that he made plans (from actual measurement) of all the Military posts in this district, and delivered them over to General Flournoy in a portable form. Mr. Lafon I am informed had a regular appointment from the Secretary of War, he is not now in this City but is daily expected. His services are at this moment particularly necessary. I think his pay and emoluments were about that of a Captain of Infantry. . . .